husband In his kindness, he must return to the society of his wife ; of the notice sent by the conspirator, he must first disconnect himself entirely and openly from the conspiracy ; — and, in like manner, before we can approve thoroughly of man, even in his generosity, we must find him returning to his allegiance to God, making confession of his past sin, humbling himself before him whom he has offended, and acknowledging that the very gifts which he is about to bestow come from God, the author of all his blessings.

As godliness is a constant duty, so ungodliness, habitually cherished, is a great master-sin, reaching over the whole man, contaminating the service he pays, however proper it may be in itself. Does it not look as if an ungodly man could not do a truly virtuous act ? Does it not look as if man must first be made godly, before he can do an act truly good ? " Either make the tree good, and his fruit good ; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt/'

SECT. IV. — FARTHER INQUIRY INTO THE VIRTUOUSNESS, AND MORE CHARACTEK.

It is extremely difficult for us, in our present circumstances, and with our present prejudices, to form an impartial estimate of the human character. Prejudices intervene to obscure the view, both when we examine others and ourselves. On looking around, we find ourselves in the heart of a crowd of persons and events, so involved one with another, and with us, that we cannot easily form an enlarged conception of them. What a mass of beings spring up before us, when we would survey the world ! and these with feelings, with habits, and dispositions so varied ; some mild, others passionate ; some gifted with lofty powers of understanding, others incapable of rising above the ordinary details of life ; some who seem to be looking

forward to another world, and others living as if they were to live here for ever, or as if their souls were to go down with their bodies to the grave, and be buried in the same tomb. We are, moreover, personally connected with many of the events that are occurring ; some we look to with hope, as about to bring us friends or fortune; others with fear, as threatening to plunge us into the depths of adversity. Then there area thousand ties connecting us with